

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2024

Ms. Lanette Phillips

Dear Ms. Phillips:

The House Committee on Oversight and Accountability (Oversight Committee) and the House Committee on the Judiciary (Judiciary Committee, collectively, the Committees) are investigating whether sufficient grounds exist to draft articles of impeachment against President Biden for consideration by the full House.<sup>1</sup> Along with the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Committees set forth in a September 27, 2023 memorandum the evidence justifying the inquiry and the scope of this impeachment investigation.<sup>2</sup> On December 13, 2023, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution directing the Committees to continue this investigation.<sup>3</sup> The Committees have identified you as possessing information relevant to the impeachment inquiry and seek your testimony regarding related topics. This request is made pursuant to that inquiry.

The Oversight Committee has reviewed bank records of individuals and entities associated with the Biden family as well as other evidence. This review uncovered a pattern of financial complexity. As detailed in the impeachment inquiry memorandum issued on September 27, 2023,<sup>4</sup> as well as the Oversight Committee's Bank Memoranda, the Biden family used corporate bank accounts of third-party associates to receive wires from foreign companies and foreign nationals.<sup>5</sup> The Biden business associates then dispersed money to various Biden family members in incremental payments over time.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, the Committees subpoenaed bank records associated with Biden family members, and those documents raise additional concerns. For example, the Oversight Committee's review of subpoenaed records shows how Hunter Biden received significant amount of foreign money paid to him by foreign oligarchs. Hunter Biden and his associates used numerous accounts to layer the money and conceal the source of the income.

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<sup>1</sup> See H. Res. 918, 118<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2023) [H. Res. 918]; Memorandum from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, Hon. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, & Hon. Jason Smith, Chairman, H. Comm. on Ways & Means, to H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, & H. Comm. on Ways & Means. Re: Impeachment Inquiry (Sept. 27, 2023) [Impeachment Inquiry Memorandum].

<sup>2</sup> See Impeachment Inquiry Memorandum.

<sup>3</sup> See H. Res. 918.

<sup>4</sup> See Impeachment Inquiry Memorandum.

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., Memorandum from Maj. Comm. Staff, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Comm. Members. Re: New Evidence Resulting from the Oversight Committee's Investigation into the Biden Family's Influence Peddling and Business Schemes (Mar. 16, 2023).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

Evidence also shows that President Biden was at least aware of some of his family's business ventures and sought to influence potential business deals that financially benefited his family. A Biden business associate, Devon Archer, testified how the Biden "brand" was used in retaining business, and that Joe Biden met with some of the business associates who paid his family.<sup>7</sup>

As part of the impeachment inquiry, the Committees have conducted transcribed interviews of several Biden family associates, including Kevin Morris<sup>8</sup> and Georges Bergès.<sup>9</sup> According to witness testimony, you introduced both Morris and Bergès to Hunter Biden.<sup>10</sup> Indeed, Morris told the Committees that he met Hunter Biden in November 2019 at a fundraiser you hosted for then-candidate Joe Biden.<sup>11</sup> After you made these introductions, Morris purchased art from Hunter Biden through sales facilitated by Bergès.<sup>12</sup> In total, Morris spent at least \$875,000 to purchase art by Hunter Biden through his limited liability company, Kuliaky Art, LLC.<sup>13</sup> Morris has also provided at least \$6.5 million in "loans" to Hunter Biden and has represented Hunter Biden in legal matters.<sup>14</sup> Given Hunter Biden's long record of influence peddling, the Committees seek to understand whether Kevin Morris's substantial financial support for Hunter Biden was intended to benefit, curry favor with, or gain access to Joe Biden. As the person who introduced Morris to Hunter Biden, the Committees believe that you have information relevant to that question.

Bergès, for his part, has facilitated at least \$1.5 million in sales of art by Hunter Biden.<sup>15</sup> You marketed Hunter Biden's October 2021 art show at Bergès's gallery by providing names of potential invitees and buyers.<sup>16</sup> For example, you introduced Bergès to Elizabeth Naftali.<sup>17</sup> Naftali bought two pieces of art by Hunter Biden in 2021 and 2022—one for \$42,000 and another for \$52,000.<sup>18</sup> On July 1, 2022, Ms. Naftali was appointed by President Biden as a Commission Member to the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad.<sup>19</sup> Purchases by both Morris and Naftali represent the majority, \$969,000, of Hunter Biden's known art sales.

The Committees must understand the nature of Hunter Biden's art endeavor. Indeed, the high-dollar sales of paintings by a novice like Hunter Biden raise considerable suspicion given

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<sup>7</sup> Transcript of Devon Archer, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability (July 31, 2023).

<sup>8</sup> Transcript of Kevin Morris, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability (Jan. 18, 2024) [Morris Transcript].

<sup>9</sup> Transcript of Georges Bergès, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability (Jan. 9, 2024) [Bergès Transcript].

<sup>10</sup> Morris Transcript at 16-17; Bergès Transcript at 15.

<sup>11</sup> Morris Transcript at 16-17.

<sup>12</sup> Bergès Transcript at 15, 40.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> Catherine Herridge & Michael Kaplan, *Kevin Morris' loans to Hunter Biden totaled \$6.5 million, \$1.6 million more than previous estimate*, CBS (Jan. 23, 2024).

<sup>15</sup> Bergès Transcript at 44.

<sup>16</sup> Bergès Transcript at 106.

<sup>17</sup> Bergès Transcript at 22.

<sup>18</sup> Bergès Transcript at 22-23, 57, 116.

<sup>19</sup> Briefing Room, President Biden Announces Key Appointments to Boards and Commissions, THE WHITE HOUSE (July 1, 2022).

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his years of peddling access to his father and capitalizing on the Biden name. For example, the Committees seek to understand whether Naftali's presidential appointment was in any way influenced by her purchase of Hunter Biden's artwork. The Committees believe that you are in a position to shed light on that and other issues, given that you introduced Naftali to Bergès.

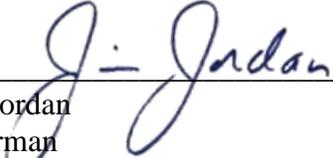
As part of our investigation, the Committees also seek to craft legislative solutions aimed at deficiencies they have identified in the current legal framework regarding ethics laws and the disclosure of financial interests related to the immediate family members of Vice Presidents and Presidents. These deficiencies may place American national security and interests at risk. They may also provide opportunities for domestic corruption. The Committees are seeking meaningful reforms to government ethics and disclosure laws that will provide necessary transparency into a Vice President's or President's immediate family members' income, assets, and financial relationships.

The Committees also intend to craft legislation that would strengthen reporting requirements related to certain foreign transactions involving senior elected officials' family members and that would implement robust financial disclosure requirements that shed light on ownership of opaque corporate entities. Moreover, to prevent financial transactions from being structured in a way to evade oversight, the Committees are examining whether certain reporting requirements, including any new reporting requirements for senior elected officials' family members, should extend for a period of time after a President or Vice President leaves office.

Accordingly, we request you make yourself available for a transcribed interview with Committee counsel. If you have any questions regarding this interview, please coordinate with Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 and Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Please contact staff by February 8, 2024, to schedule the interview.

Sincerely,

  
James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

  
Jim Jordan  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary